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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 09/995,607 | IWAI, SADAYUKI | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Susan S. Lee | 2852 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 12/20/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6,8,10,11,13-30,32-60,63-70 and 72-80.
3. The drawings filed on 29 November 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 1-6, 8, 10, 11, 13-25, 50-58, 63, 65-67, 69, and 70 is the inclusion of a maintenance unit that maintains the first surface image transferred onto the first surface of a recording medium by the first transfer unit and prevents disturbance at the time of inverting the recording medium. This is found in all of claims 1-6, 8, 10, 11, 13-25, 50-58, 63, 65-67, 69, and 70, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 26-30, 32-49, and 64 is the inclusion of a developing unit having a liquid developing agent containing a toner and a liquid solvent and an inverting unit including a branch nail and conveyance rollers that inverts the front and back sides of a recording medium by an inverting path while conveying the recording medium from the first transfer unit to the second transfer unit. This is found in all of claims 26-30, 32-49, and 64, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 59 and 60 is the inclusion of a method of maintaining the image transferred onto the first surface of the recording medium and preventing disturbance at the time of inverting the recording medium. This is found in all of claims 59 and 60, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 68 is the inclusion of an intermediate transfer member wherein the first transfer unit transfers the electrostatic latent image

onto an intermediate transfer member unit. This is found in all of claim 68, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 72 is the inclusion of an inverting unit, and a transfer fixation unit that executes fixation simultaneously with transfer of at least one of the first and second transfer units. This is found in all of claim 72, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 73 and 80 is the inclusion of an inverting unit; first and second fixation units, and a thermal amount provided to a paper by the first fixation unit is set at an amount smaller than a thermal amount provided to the recording medium by the second fixation unit. This is found in all of claims 73 and 80, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 74 is the inclusion of a tip end resist unit that matches a predetermined position in a conveyance direction of the recording medium to be conveyed into the second transfer unit with an image tip end of the second surface image. This is found in all claim 74, but not disclosed nor suggested by prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 75 is the inclusion of a lateral resist adjusting unit that matches the recording medium in a direction orthogonal to a conveyance direction between the first transfer unit and the second transfer unit. This is found in all of claim 75, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 76 is the inclusion of an inverting unit, an image formation unit forming first and second surface images, first transporting and

second transfer units, and that an interval between the first surface image and the second surface image is at least (the time necessary for inversion of the recording medium) x (the moving speed of the image supporting member). This is found in all of claim 76, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 77 is the inclusion of an inverting unit, first and second transfer units, and that a conveyance speed of the recording medium to be conveyed to the second transfer unit after the image transfer by the first transfer unit is set at a speed higher than a linear speed of the image supporting member in a rotational direction. This is found in all of claim 77, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 78 is the inclusion of an inverting unit, first and second transfer units, and at least one of the first and second transfer units transfers the image along a belt. This is found in all of claim 78, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 79 is the inclusion of an inverting unit; first and second transfer units; an image formation unit comprising a developing unit using a liquid developing agent with a liquid solvent and that an image fixing is not performed between when a first image transferred to an image supporting member by the first transfer unit is transferred to the recording medium and when a second image transferred to the image supporting member by the second transfer unit is transferred to the recording medium. This is found in all of claim 79, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852